

THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Minister at Large in Lowell,

TO THE

LOWELL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

LOWELL:

B. H. PENHALLOW, PRINTER.

NOVEMBER, 1851.

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R E P O R T .

THE seventh year of the Ministry at Large in Lowell, has just closed. It lies before you, with its work done. It presents again to your consideration its charity, its plans of usefulness, its methods of operation, and the results. It addresses itself to the enlightened judgment and generous Christian heart. From these the Ministry hopes to obtain a verdict, which will ensure continued life and greater usefulness, with increase of wisdom and experience.

As we view the year, the fact that stands out most prominently from its surface is, that it has been a hard year for Lowell,—most hard for the operatives and day laborers. This was keenly felt in the winter, giving to that season an intensity of rigor, never before experienced here. The condition of suffering was foreseen, and the probability of it intimated, in the last report. The Manufacturing Companies, to make any profit, or to keep their wheels in motion without loss, were obliged to reduce wages materially, and even to dismiss half the operatives from many rooms. Could so many hands be thrown out of employment without occasioning great distress? A considerable number, young and single, would return to their homes in the country. And a happy thing for Lowell, would it have been and would it be, if the

operatives were more from this class of persons. But not a few were connected with families here, the members of which, in the midst of much expense, were more or less dependent on them for daily support. Then there were those, who, having become independent of their friends, wished to preserve their independence, stayed here week after week and month after month, until the last cent was gone, and debt was incurred with the hope, and deceived often by the delusive report, that the times would soon be better and the mills start up again. In a short time they had nothing to go with, and to run from debts was what they never did. There were those again without friends, who were willing to take any other work, but it could not be found. Here were painful dilemmas. Some came to me very reluctantly, burst into tears, and confessed their distressed condition. It was the first time they had ever asked charity. Perhaps the clothes had been pawned for subsistence. A few crackers, a little meal, any little pittance, would be thankfully received. Work, work, was all that was wanted. And seldom a day passed, the last winter, that one or more did not offer to work from two to four months, without any compensation but the board. And even this could not be obtained.

Not only the stopping of machinery in the mills caused distress and suffering, but as when one important member suffers, all the rest suffer with it, so the city, in every part, felt the blow that had come upon the manufacturing interests. There was less building of houses, and extension of established works, nearly all mechanical employments were abridged, the stores all did a greatly diminished business, boarding houses

had fewer boarders and more bad debts, much help was dismissed, many felt obliged to hire as little as possible, to do their own work and little jobs,—and thus a long list of persons with small means were made poor, the poor were made poorer, and that numerous body, the washerwomen, who struggle the hardest for a living, complained that they had not half the usual employment, and their misfortune was aggravated by the introduction, at this time, of labor saving soaps, which brought their services into much less demand. And now, in a city, which, two years ago, could, with difficulty, find a domestic or person to perform any small work, last winter, the streets literally swarmed with worthy females and laborers, seeking employment at the doors, and importunate for it. From such a state of things, a general and deep distress came upon a class of our fellow-citizens, and upon very worthy persons, too. This fact, so stated, may surprise some, but I assure you that it is not exaggerated. There was cause for it. And there is always more suffering from poverty than is known to the public. It is behind a veil, which separates the retiring poor from those who never visit their homes and obtain access to their hearts and troubles. In times of prosperity, too, we know more of the poverty that exists, for much of it is caused by vice, and declares itself. In times of adversity, there is much necessary, unpurchased poverty, among the virtuous, who shrink from making known their straits, and will suffer almost to death, before they will do it. As an instance, I knew a man, the last winter, who lived on the crusts of bread which he asked from neighbors' tables for another purpose, and did not

make known his need, until the spring, when, for want of sufficient nourishment, his completely debilitated frame compelled him to ask for a sufficiency.

It belongs to me to state to you how I met the exigency of the last winter. I did it, first, by virtue of that foresight and forethought toward the poor, which we are always preaching to them to exercise for themselves. We warned them early. We counselled them to prepare for an emergency. We advised every one to make sure of employment. We gave directions to the unemployed to go all over the city, and make diligent and thorough enquiries, and satisfy themselves immediately, whether a situation could be procured or not. If one could not be, we begged them to go at once from the city, to some place where there was the usual prosperity and less superfluous labor. Many were hard to be persuaded. They would fain stay here against all prospect, and hope against hope. I stated and re-stated the real condition of things. I described the position in which they must be placed at the coming on of winter. I told them that entirely dependent, many must be provided for by the city, and take a residence at the Poor Farm. In some other city or town, they might preserve their independence, and find comfort and peace. Finally, one after another, not helped, discouraged, pressed, took trunk and furniture and left for a land of more promise. I paid some away, and some back to the country towns from whence they came, believing this to be a better expenditure of money than to attempt to sustain them here. This plan I followed up with increased earnestness, until stern winter shut down its gates upon all egress from

the city. Then, in the second place, opening sparingly my hand, save in particular cases, which should be exceptions to the general rule, I endeavored to show the straitened how they might live most cheaply, what articles of food were most economical and nourishing, and how much might be dispensed with through a pinch of circumstances, and thus one be enabled to maintain himself above dependence, or from sinking far into it. I instituted a close inquiry into the mode of living of those sent to me as beggars, and often found that if they would let rum alone, substitute some other article of food for potatoes, and lay aside awhile tea and sugar, their slender means would be sufficient to keep them from begging, or that but a small addition to their food would be required from my resources. I went so far finally as to lay it down for a rule, that no one ought to beg, until, having confined himself to the necessities of life, these failed to support him,—unless in sickness, or it may be with one or two other exceptions. In the third place, I endeavored to meet the emergency by raising more money, than has been usual, to meet the necessities of the poor. I stated in my last report, that I thought it would be necessary, and I found it so. A subscription paper for charity, only once before resorted to, was started. The amount wanted was obtained without difficulty, and the sums paid were, in nearly every case, very cheerfully given. Some thanked me for calling, for they thought the poor must need special help. No one could doubt it. For the aid and encouragement thus given to me in person, I take this occasion most cordially to thank those who enabled me to relieve severe distresses.

Thus I sought to meet, and was enabled to meet, the exigency of poverty, the last winter. I thank God, and thank you, that this ministry was in being, a refuge in the hour of calamity,—a light, guidance, counsel, help and salvation from trouble. But for this, many would have been obliged to beg at the door, and been unwisely treated, or would have fallen into the hands of the city charity, and felt themselves degraded. Hard as the year has been, it would have been harder, if by the mercy of Providence there had not been less sickness than in many years previous.

The trial of the year has not passed without a trace of good effects. Many have had their eyes opened to the importance of laying by, when there is opportunity, something to lean upon when employment fails, and will no more “spend as they go,” thinking, “when this is gone they can easily get enough more.” Many have seen the folly of improvidence, which is a great cause of poverty, seldom removed by the word of warning, often, only by bitter experience; and then, a word of reflection is a word fitly spoken. More will, in the time to come, know what prudence is, and economy, of which in time past they knew nothing; and the knowledge gained, may prove the corner stone of a fortune. More will know the value of constant employment, for they were “perfectly wretched without it,” and the importance of keeping a good place, when it can be kept, instead of continually shifting, as many do, from love of novelty, caprice, passion and whim, losing time, and then troubled to find any place at all. I have in mind a number that have been made much

more stable and steady minded. More will know how little is absolutely necessary to support life in health, and how to manage themselves in straits which may hereafter befall them. In all these considerations, and others that will readily suggest themselves, are involved evident and important moral results to individuals and the community. Allow me to specify two or three other good effects, which deserve notice. It is well known that there are tenements and cellars in the city, unfit to be tenanted, a reproach to their owners, without conveniences, whited sepulchres, painted outside but all out of repair within, stived and damp, for which an exorbitant price has been demanded and obtained, when houses have been well filled and scarce. The last winter, scores of houses of a better class were made vacant by removals to a distance, affording an opportunity for the poor to occupy rooms fit to be swept and garnished, and to draw the breath of life in,—which many were not slow to improve. I am glad to say that the stint and tyranny of landlords, who could afford to be liberal to the poor, has recoiled upon them. Of the five hundred tenements vacant at one time, last winter, a large portion were of the condemned class. I cannot but express the hope, that this lesson of the year will not be without permanent good results on landlord and tenant.

The city has been benefitted, the last year, by the loss of some of its population. Many, having little or nothing to do, for whom Satan found mischief, have left us. And some families, who have for years been a burden upon us, shiftless, indisposed to exertion, but disposed to dependence and low vice, the

last persons who should ever live in the city, more than ever straitened, we told them resolutely that if they did not return to the country, we should see that they were sent, or sent to the Poor Farm. They went away, paid perhaps to their former places of abode. I have not known any to return. Scarcely any that have gone from the city for the last two years, have come back to us. If the city has of late received a check in its prosperity, we cannot fail to see that, in many ways, a wholesome discipline has been experienced,—that good has come out of evil.

With all the poverty, the last winter, and all the calls for employment, a distinguishing feature of the year has been, much less begging than at any previous time. This is to be attributed, we think, to the greater prevalence of a just sentiment against the practise, to timely measures to prevent a resort to it, to the exposure of imposition and arts of vice, and to wiser measures to relieve real suffering and satisfy virtuous want. A decided diminution of begging at the doors,* which leads to permanent dependence, lying, stealing and hypocrisy, which breaks down the pride and spirit of so many, which is often a resort for an easy subsistence by those who would lead a lazy and irregular life, which ruins so many chil-

* What a lesson is conveyed in the case of the poor blind man, who came from the poor house of Carlisle, some six years since, to peddle and beg through our streets, led by a boy, and towards whom so much sympathy has been expressed universally! Again and again have people been cautioned against him, and his mode of life exposed, but many could not help feeling for him and encouraging him, notwithstanding that he was an intemperate man, and when drunk the boys would steal from him all his gains,—his wife was intemperate too,—and now he is in jail for adultery!

dren, and makes poverty fast, is a great point gained. But a greater still remains to be gained, a universal refusal of aid at the doors at all times, a refusal begun and strictly adhered to by many families, most distinguished for lofty character and philanthropy, but which can only be extended to universality, by the efforts of thinking intelligence, and principle.

Among the signs of the times, I find this sentiment frequently uttered, that those who have had means, and have been expending them freely or wasting them, and have nothing in the hour of sickness and trouble, should be reluctantly helped. A word upon this. It is said, when a building is lost by fire and reduces the owner to poverty, the building was not insured, the owner neglected or refused to avail himself of a security against serious loss, and we will sign no paper in his behalf. In most cases, justly. And with how much justice and good sense, can it be said to a class of persons, you have had good pay, money whereby to live comfortably and appear well, and, with common prudence, to lay aside for a day when you might be incapable of work, but you have spent it as it came, on fashion, in pleasure on your appetites, while I have denied propensities to these, and have laid up. You have no real claim upon my savings, and I ought not to be over willing to help you, still I will not let you suffer. Whether said, or felt, or not, no one I think can doubt but that it is the true sentiment, that it is in accordance with the discipline of Providence, and that its general prevalence would act favorably, while it should not unkindly, upon the temporal and moral good of many. In this connection, I would take occasion to say that

I believe that many sentiments of charity need to be reviewed and altered. They were born and have had their course in darkness. They are too impulsive and narrow. They are not the offspring of reflection, and do not look to ultimate and the highest results. Some changes in these, become universal, would do more towards the diminution of poverty and the upraising of man, than volumes of words and a multitude of plans.

A marked change in the policy of the city has occurred within a few years. There is far less of out door relief, or relief to those who seek it away from the Almshouse, given by the Overseers of the Poor. The accounts, as published in the Auditor's reports, do not exhibit the exact amount of out-door relief afforded, separate from the expenses at the Poor Farm. But we have an approximation to it in the distinct statement of the principal expenditures of the Board, under the heads of boarding and nursing, groceries and fuel. I would call attention to the statements relative to these.

| In 1846, | In 1847, |
|--|------------------------------------|
| For boarding and nursing, \$1,261 65 | For boarding and nursing, \$690 06 |
| Groceries,.....427 04 | Groceries,.....490 41 |
| Fuel,.....1,627 09 | Fuel,.....803 58 |
| <hr/> | <hr/> |
| \$3,315 78 | \$1,984 05 |
| In 1848, | In 1849, |
| Boarding and nursing,.....\$421 09 | Boarding and nursing,....\$186 73 |
| Groceries,.....620 32 | Groceries,.....96 33 |
| Fuel,.....274 47 | Fuel,.....126 26 |
| <hr/> | <hr/> |
| \$1,315 88 | \$409 32 |
| In 1850, boarding and nursing, \$57 18 | |
| Groceries and fuel,....80 04 | |
| <hr/> | |
| \$137 22 | |

The population of the city in 1846 was 25,127. In 1850, 33,000. While the out-door relief has di-

minished from \$3.315 78 to \$137 22!.* What has led to this difference has been the detection of so much imposition, closer investigation into the tales of suffering, a decision not to encourage new comers to settle here when they cannot find support, the offer of a residence at the Poor Farm to those who want to be supported at the public charge, and whose habits of life unfit them to take care of themselves, and the sending back to the towns whence they came and in which they have a residence, those who have made a mistake in coming to Lowell.† This last measure, I think, ought to be more strongly pressed. For the city receives much of its population from the country, and when this from any cause is sinking into poverty, degradation and vice, it had better be returned. It may thus be snatched from ruin. The temptations to vice diminish with the distance from large and crowded population. One cannot reach so low a point where there is a more general, intimate knowledge, of every one, and a universal friendliness. There is comparatively no poverty, where there is a patch of land to cultivate, and the fruits of the earth abound.

The course pursued by the city has often given offence to those whose wishes have not been gratified, and who do not see what is for their own good, and

* The present year will probably show an increase of expenditure, which may be accounted for by the fact that the year has been a remarkably trying one for the poor, and in part from the newness of the Mayor's position, when all the rejected cases calculate to make a new sally for charity, and the Mayor cannot know them.

† To this it may be added, that many, not paupers, prefer to come first to me for help, and I prevent the necessity of their calling upon the city, which is the better course for many.

to those who have been unsuccessful applicants to others for aid, and have not the knowledge and experience to see the wisdom of refusal. Still, the true policy will save taxes and save souls. While much credit is due to the Honorable Mayors and Overseers of the Poor, for the courage and perseverance from conviction with which they have adopted and pursued this system, may the credit that is due be accorded to this ministry, which has started and led the way in investigation, principle and view, and been directly serviceable, often, in imparting information. Commending the system and general action of the city, the impression ought not to be that justice has in all cases been done to the poor. A near approach to this can never be made, I think, until some such plan is adopted, as was suggested in the report of this ministry in 1847. Now, all applications made to the city for aid, are made to the Mayor, as Chairman of the Board of Overseers; and with the multifarious duties, crowding upon him, it is impossible for him to ascertain the true condition of the hundreds of applicants at the office, for he can neither trust their words nor the words of those, frequently, that speak for them, who seldom themselves truly know them, and who sometimes speak only from friendship. Then, the Mayor, without a previous knowledge of the poor, and the subject of poverty, scarcely begins to understand the principles which have been worked out, and to know characters, before he goes out of office, and his knowledge and experience are lost. The same remarks may be made relative to the Overseers of the Poor, with some qualifications. How much better it would be, if this extensive and all-important

business of pauperism, as far as its outward relations are concerned, should be entrusted to a Pauper Department, which should be organized with a head, competent to take it in charge, who should be considered as occupying a permanent office, not subject to the continual changes of most of the other offices of the city, and be well paid, as occupying a very responsible situation. He might be counsellor and executive, with an advisory Board. The claims of charity and the interests of the city are too momentous for this business to lie as it does,—though in faithful hands. I believe that this plan, since it was first proposed, or some plan like it, has had the warm approbation of those most familiar with the workings of the old system, (if it may be called system,) and in particular of the past Mayors and the present Mayor, and that it needs only to be looked in the face and handled, to be adopted in the main.

At the Poor Farm, where I have continued to act as Chaplain, the past year, the number of poor has not increased, that is of foreign poor, for seldom more than six or eight inmates out of one hundred and thirty, are native poor. While the population has been increasing every year until the last, for several years, the number has been actually diminishing. Among many reasons, one is that fewer come to the city, where there is less occupation; then, if the able-bodied in the Alms House are obliged to work steadily and strong, they think they may as well work for themselves somewhere else, and have the benefit of it, which is a wise thought; and besides, we discourage, all around, and have for some time, immigrants from settling down among us with fallacious

hopes, to dig graves for themselves and their children. "Westward, the star of empire takes its way," and should, for most of those who come to us from across the seas; for, at the West of us, hands are wanted, and support and thrift are at command, to all disposed to draw it out of the cheap earth, full of riches. Health and prosperity, without vice, is the portion of hundreds who have taken this direction. The subject of immigration is a large one, and cannot now be entered upon to any length. We ought to be aware that vaster numbers of foreigners have poured into the country the last year, and still greater numbers may be expected from the facilities of bringing them, which are multiplying on a large scale, and from the depressed condition of the population of Europe. All our cities ought to understand, and be prepared to meet the influx upon them in such a way as shall be for the highest good of all. The office of the Commissioners of Immigration at New York, exhibits the immigration of the first nine months of the year 251,323, against 163,756 in the same months, last year. While our policy is to turn Westward the great current, at the same time a few may be directed to country towns in New England, for there are many that are short of hands to do the work, deserted by the rush to cities. I could point to not a few farming towns, where the Irish have gone to labor, and by the exercise of that rigid economy that good mother necessity has taught them, are now enabled to take small farms to cultivate for themselves, and make good citizens. How much better this than to become corrupt and an offence in cities.

After all that has been, or can be done, however, there is a large population of Irish in Lowell, and will be. Among the superabundant numbers that are with us, there has been somewhat more comfort brought to their homes by the employment of more of them in the mills. This large portion of our population are at a great distance below us in the scale of cultivated intellect and of good morals. But they mingle with us, and will be citizens, and their children too,—voters, and fathers and mothers in the land. If we say, “stand by, we are more cleanly in our habits, and not so ignorant, and stupid and tattered, more truthful, wiser calculators, less superstitious—stand by, we are better than you”—this is the spirit of Pharisaism, it is not the spirit of Christianity, and of liberal, sound patriotism. We may have returned unto us, one day, a worse spirit than this, and find that a great corruption indeed has reached the heart of the body politic. Would it not be more becoming in us to humble ourselves and draw near with kindness, to teach them neatness and the use of the needle, to read and write, to economize, to speak the truth, to think and foresee, also to secure the attendance of children upon school, to see that the wilful and depraved are sent for discipline and reform to the House of Reformation, and show them what true religion before God and the Father is. If we cast such bread upon the waters, it cannot fail to return to us after not many days, with a blessing.

With more want of employment than there is, with more sickness, there would be far less poverty, if there was more kindly interest on the part of the educated towards the uneducated, of the religious

towards the irreligious. It is emphatically true of the last. We are not aware, I think, how much irreligion has to do with poverty. By irreligion I do not mean scepticism, a want of faith in God and the Scriptures, for these are generally found in the bosom ; but a neglect of the Scriptures and the opportunities of the Sabbath. With these commence, often, slackness and laxity of principle, the sense of duty becomes weak and dead, the views selfish and worldly, self-respect dies, appetite and passion rise into strength and exhaust the energies, and one soon becomes like an ancient city, "broken down and without walls." There is a descent into poverty and then vice, or into vice and then poverty. I have often traced this effect for others, which they have acknowledged, and they have often traced it for themselves, and declared it to me. The motto of the seal of our city is, "Art is the handmaid of human good." We place the emphasis on art. But we must remember that it belongs on human good. That, all the hand and head cannot bring about, without the heart regulated and sanctified. We may be a city of mills without foundation. We do not wish to be corporations without soul. As a component part of the body politic, we cannot have "a true and lasting prosperity," as the father of our country said, "without morality and religion."

I restrain myself from further direct remarks on this great subject of poverty, which the last year has made so prominent an object of attention.—I now feel myself obliged to pass hastily over a ground, which was dwelt upon at some length in the preceding report,—the moral condition of Lowell,

considerations and suggestions relative to this, affecting poverty. The number of the poor and their moral condition depends much on the state of the Temperance cause. Notwithstanding the prosecutions in the early part of the year, and the needed and important ordinance of the city government that the police should be temperance men, in the absence of thorough law allowing thorough action, we have seen a free sale of liquors in all our streets, and especially in the narrow streets and lanes, and can count more places of sale than a year ago. The last winter, there came to my ears more cries of distress, more cases of delirium tremens, more knowledge of cruel, heartless arts to decoy and fleece the poor victims of appetite, and more insulting mockery of the prayers and tears of parents and wives, than ever before. I am bound to record it. It will not surprise you, if I tell you that, at one time, my bosom was wrung with anguish, and at another fired with indignation, at my brother's suffering and wrong.* A woman, one day, thus poured out the overflowing woe of her bosom, as she paced in phrenzied agony the apartment in which I was sitting :—"Oh, God ! cannot this evil be stopped ? I will be revenged !" I ejaculated — "Vengeance

* Whose heart would not be moved by the knowledge of one of the victims of the rumseller, driven from door after door like a dog, sleeping in barns and pig pens, through freezing nights, and at the sight of him sitting in a chair, trembling in every fibre, and hour by hour almost senselessly, but with creeping horror, brushing little devils from his arms, and working snakes off his legs. Or, whose ire would not kindle when a seller of rum draws a good pair of boots from a victim's legs, puts on an old worthless pair, for compensation hands cup after cup to his lips, and then turns him into a snow bank, where he would have perished, had not a good Samaritan taken him home to his widowed mother — her good heart to be wrung with agony inconsolable !

belongeth unto God." "I know it," she said, "but,— Oh, ye city Fathers! I have borne enough—I cannot bear more! Have not wives and children a right to protection from Government and society? Not even you, Sir, can know how much we suffer, days and nights too. I go to the rumseller, and beg him not to let my husband have any more rum, and he throws a bottle at my head, and bids me, jade, go home." Then, wringing her hands, she sunk despairingly into a chair, heaving a deep sigh that has not gone from my ears yet. She has a right to be heard, and it is our duty to hear. It is known that vigorous measures and vigorous men have of late done a good work in Maine. Whatever opinions there may be about the continuance, or the details, of the new law, it is certain that a striking and happy effect has been produced upon the poverty and morality of the cities of that State. The Mayor of Portland has lately borne public testimony to the great change observable in that city. He says, that the operation of the law has had a sensible effect in suppressing rowdyism, and in diminishing crime and pauperism. Where is the man who has a pitying heart for his kind, who does not rejoice in every victory over this prolific cause of human woe and wretchedness!

The last year, the moral condition of the poor has been affected unfavorably, I think, by the new law relative to matrimony. Hasty marriages, without a knowledge of friends, on a moment's impulse, are leading into snares of ruin. The sacredness of the marriage vow is lessened in the eyes of those whose morality sits loosely upon them. Morality among our youth would be promoted, and the purposes of the

City House of Reform* furthered, if the law against truancy could be enforced. And if so many boys were not employed to peddle and sell papers about the streets, which practise has much increased of late, and is found here and everywhere pernicious in its effects. It leads to vagrant habits, draws from school, sometimes with and sometimes against the consent of parents, and opens the way to pilfering, also to dissipation, through the indulgence of appetite by the money gained. Some of those employed, give up faithfully their earnings to their parents, for a while. But many do not. For the benefit of our youth and the community too, it is earnestly to be desired and prayed for, that our schools and churches would make it an immediate and prominent duty to break up, if possible, the awful and prevalent practice of swearing. The blasphemous utterances at every corner are chilling in the extreme. There is great danger of the general moral tone of Lowell being lowered. We are a laboring and peculiar population. Many without a home here, working from an early hour to the middle of the evening, and then found floating in the brilliant streets, seeking recreation, some other occupation, or amusement. It is very important, that while we are endeavoring to make happy homes, and bring advantages to our firesides, we do not overlook the importance abroad of a variety of innocent and well regulated amusements, profitable lectures, good libraries and schools for learning, that may overcome

* This will be located in a new building, about ready to be occupied, connected with the Poor Farm. Boys have, for several months, been received. The present number, sent to this establishment for reform, is twelve.

the pernicious, out-door influences of midnight dances, revelling rooms and houses of infamy. It is very important, too, to the virtue of our operatives, that they board in the Corporation Boarding Houses, subject to their regulations and the inspection of virtuous companions, rather than in the houses of irresponsible matrons, where late hours and own way are apt to be allowed from fears of self interest.

Pardon me, if I abruptly break from considerations like these, to go to the chapel of this ministry, to detail to you the plans there in operation, and the influences radiating from it, for the temporal and spiritual good of the poor. The office in the chapel has been daily open, at stated hours, to receive calls for help, answer inquiries, give advice, and furnish clothing. The number of calls made at the office, during the year, has been thirteen hundred. Most of them in the winter season. Two-fifths of this number were Irish Catholics. The class of applicants has been of a more worthy kind than ever before — many good persons being thrown out of employment. I have done but little towards furnishing the poor with employment, for the attempt would have been useless. I have given instead, direction and counsel how to manage to the best advantage through emergency. One rule we have endeavored to adhere to more strictly than ever, not to seek employment, with some exceptions, for strangers, or encourage them to seek it, while so many of those long resident in the city are suffering for the want of it. Furnishing occupation to new comers amounts often to taking it away from those who have been long in the city, diminishes their chances of work,

and throws them from a state of tolerable comfort into one of poverty and distress. Those who do the occasional jobs of the citizens, and the poor washerwomen, complain much, and justly, of this inconsiderate and unwise action of the charitable. The advantage and wisdom of a central office for reference, and as a resort for the needy and tried and the stranger within the gates, to which those, who have claims upon no one else, may repair rightfully in the hour of want, has been most strikingly illustrated, during this year of strait and perplexity. My quiver is so full of examples, that I must not begin to draw from it. But I cannot but refer to one of the instances of the past, which, at this time, presents itself too prominently before me, to be laid aside. A young woman, one morning, came to me, fleeing for refuge from a man who was plotting her destruction. She nestled confidingly under the wings of our care. She became a school teacher, a Sunday school teacher, a member of the church, and is now a devoted and eminent sister of charity in a distant city, whither she went with the single desire to be more useful than she could be here !

The part of the chapel used as a place of worship, has been refitted the past year, and now presents a very neat and pleasant aspect. The attendance upon the services of the Sabbath has not equalled that of the preceding year, which was unusually large. The attendance, of course, has been much affected by the departure of so many poor families from the city, and many from our own circle of worshippers. The preaching has continued to be simple and practical, direct to the trials, and sins and temptations of the

hearers. Sectarianism has not once been known among us. That all who have been connected with the chapel will be ready to avow. And it is gross injustice to apply any sectarian name, or make any sly insinuations of sectarian motives and measures against any of the religious services or charitable operations of this institution. It is clear even from the appearance of sectarianism. It has been very pleasing, the last year, to have addressed to me such expressions as these,—“It came right home to my heart, Sir.” “You sketched my trouble exactly, and I see the remedy.” “You have hit human nature about me precisely as it is.” “I can understand religion from your lips.” I say this has been pleasing to me, and I relate it as showing the fitness and beauty of this arrangement, by which the gospel is preached to those peculiarly situated by one who goes among them, and sees and knows all things about them as they are, having no object set before him but to serve them. A new plan has been in successful operation in connection with the forenoon service, which has been an exposition of some interesting passage of Scripture. At the close of it, the children have been detained and questioned upon the subject and illustrations of the discourse, and the bearing of its points upon themselves. Answers have generally been given with a readiness and fullness exciting surprise, and habits of attention and reflection have been induced. More, the children have taken a pleasure in going home and telling their absent parents what they heard and remembered. And this has deepened the impression on their memories and hearts. Be assured, that this has not been

lost on the minds and hearts of parents. As a reward, also, for attendance, we have given the children a religious newspaper to take to their homes. The Sunday School has been held, as always, after the afternoon service. It was well supplied with good teachers in the winter season, but as usual at this season, we stand in need of them. The school now requires, if we may so speak, because its good demands it, that the teachers be present at the afternoon service. Coming from other churches, often, to instruct, it asks of them a sacrifice on the altar of charity, and, laid there, the offering twice blesses, not only those who receive, but richly those who make it. Some of our most intelligent teachers have for years given the school an unbroken attendance, with this sacrifice. The school numbered in mid winter, the time when its numbers are the greatest, one hundred and seventy scholars. The largest portion of them were boys. We have given out to the children about five thousand papers during the year, the Youth's Penny Gazette, and the Sunday School Gazette, beside books, and flowers through the season of them. The papers the children read and lend, preserve and re-read. While the Sunday School is in session, the Bible classes are assembled in the lower rooms of the chapel. The male class has been enjoying the kind and faithful instructions of Hanover Dickey, M. D. The female class, those of Miss L. E. Penhallow whose undeviating regularity and fidelity have secured a good attendance. A portion of the year, Wednesday evening meetings have been held for conference and prayer. Through the year, church meetings.

The children were brought together about once a fortnight, through the winter season, from 5 to 7, P. M. I can give you only a feeble idea of the manner in which these early hours of the evening have been spent. Tables are covered with illustrated newspapers, and prints. Geographical and Historical cards, and dissected maps, furnish amusement and instruction. Conversation with teachers and each other, marches, games of the circle, singing, and an address, fill out happily and profitably the time. At a gathering on the evening of Washington's birthday, each child was presented with a copy of the engraving of Hudson's bust of Washington. It is important that children peculiarly tempted, without advantages, and without often a true home and the amenities and cheer of life, should have an opportunity of learning how to pass an evening pleasantly, and at the same time draw a gain from it. On Christmas day, the chapel was decorated with evergreen, the children were collected for a service, and were addressed by Mr. J. P. Walker, and Rev. F. T. Gray, of Boston, an early friend of Dr. Tuckerman, and a co-worker with him, in a very interesting and happy manner. At this time, Mr. Gray desired that a Daguerreotype view of our chapel might be taken, at his expense, a copy of which has been presented to many friends, and to each one of the Sunday School children. For which we thank him. The annual fruit festival occurred in September. An appropriate address was made to the children. This, it is believed, has an important effect in preventing the stealing of fruit, and is improved as an occasion for enforcing the rights of property. It also calls out reciprocal good will

between donors and receivers. The Juvenile Library, from which books are given out every Wednesday afternoon for six months, was resorted to, the last winter, by a number one-third greater than in any previous season. The sewing school has been, for the last two years, under the care of Mrs. Wood and the Misses Dana. Eighty-two scholars were enrolled, last winter. The great utility of this school must be obvious to every one. This branch of education is believed to be of sufficient importance to be introduced into our primary schools.

While all our plans have been prospered the last year, the greatest increase of prosperity has been in the evening school. The school was established in 1845. In the school, commencing Nov. 1848, the number of adults and young persons, not attending a day school, entered as scholars, amounted to one hundred and seventeen. In the school of 1849, to one hundred and thirty. In that of 1850, to two hundred and thirty-six,—an increase of an hundred the last year. To this it should be added that the attendance was far more regular than heretofore. And we think that the good order of the school could not have been surpassed anywhere. There were dismissed from the school two females, and one male. The number of females in attendance was one hundred and fifty-six. The number of males, eighty. The largest attendance on an evening was one hundred and forty. The smallest, fifty-four. About one half of the whole number of scholars came from the mills of the Hamilton, Middlesex, Appleton, Lowell, Boott, Prescott and Merrimack Corporations. Others came from the Bleachery, Batting Mill, Flannel Mill,

Foundry, Machine Shops, Cigar Shops, &c. The number of domestics was twenty-four. The number out of employment, thirty-one. The head of the male department was Miss L. E. Penhallow, and of the female adult department, Mrs. Wood,—assisted by a body of twelve teachers. The whole school was under the oversight of myself, with the direct charge of the male department, assisted by Mr. Bradford Bartlett, Mr. James Darracott, and Messrs. E. W. and A. T. Young, who generously gave their aid after the confining and tedious labors of the day. Mr. E. W. Young added much to the interest and profit of the school, by an occasional exhibition of diagrams, illustrating astronomy, &c. with accompanying remarks. The school was much profited also by the addition we were enabled, last winter, to make, of school books and apparatus, through a ready grant of fifty dollars from the city. The teachers distinguished themselves, through the four months of the school, by their regularity and fidelity. The instruction in the male department was given by each teacher in a single branch of study, calling up classes in the order of attainment. The female department was divided into thirteen classes, each teacher instructing in all the branches taught. The school closed the first of March, but one teacher has continued the class through the year, at her own house. At the close of the school, all the scholars were present together. A report was offered. Excellent and appropriate remarks were made by Rev. Dr. Miles, Mr. E. W. Young, and Samuel L. Dana, L. L. D. After a social entertainment, the scholars separated, with affectionate farewells, grateful to the teachers, and

determined to come the next winter for improvement, if they should remain in the city, and health be spared.* What a blessing is such a school to ignorant young men and women and adults! What a blessing to the city! It is gratifying to know that these schools are multiplying in New England. Several new ones were opened last winter. Others are to be started this winter. Nearly all are fostered by the governments of the cities in which they are located, in sums varying from one hundred to four hundred dollars.

With this, I will close the report of the religious, moral, and educational work, within the chapel. Farther than what has been stated of labor, I have not performed any, except to act as agent for the Howard Benevolent Society, for the sixth year. This was the first, and for some time, the only organization in this city in behalf of the poor, but its object was a limited one. It has been in a great measure superseded by the comprehensive and various plans of this institution, with its more abundant resources. Other public labor I have generally shunned, to state no other reason, because the duties of this sphere are so many and so absorbing, with so much minute care, that a ready response to many calls for extra work would only involve our cause and me in bankruptcy and ruin. There is a limit to what *one* may do. If an assistant could only be granted me, double the work could be done, with higher results. I will only add, that I have distributed many Bibles, this year,

* The School commenced again Nov. 3d, with double the number heretofore present on the first evening, viz.—one hundred and thirty-six.

for which we have been chiefly indebted to the Massachusetts Bible Society.

It remains to me to state to you the receipts and expenditures of the charity purse for the year. The receipts have been six hundred twenty-two dollars and ninety-eight cents. The expenditures, six hundred ten dollars and eighty-three cents. Leaving in the Treasury, Oct. 1, twelve dollars and fifteen cents. The principal receipts in detail have been, from the city toward the evening school, fifty dollars; Rev. William Ware's lectures, fifty-eight dollars; contribution of Rev. Dr. Miles' society, forty-four dollars; from the Board of Aldermen, the Auctioneers' licenses, fourteen dollars and ninety-one cents; from the Home Benevolent Society, twelve dollars; Young Ladies' Education Society, five dollars; Engine Co. No. 3, sixteen dollars; New Bedford Sunday School, three dollars; South Congregational Society Sunday School, three dollars and sixty-five cents; by private subscription, two hundred dollars; from the Floral Fair, July 4th, one hundred and twenty dollars; and from individuals, various sums, varying from one to ten dollars. The principal expenditures have been for fuel, food, sickness, shoes, and sending from the city. In no year has so much been needed for the poor, and in no year has so much been contributed, and as far as my experience has gone, so readily. Will "friends in need, friends indeed," of every name, and the public generally, accept most hearty thanks that I have been enabled to meet well the crying wants of the year.

Calling to mind the benefactors of this cause, we are reminded of the death of one, during the last

year, in a neighboring city, who, for some time, had an abode with us, and has left the impress of his wisdom and benevolence on every side, and stamped deep on the tablet of this institution. He was distinguished as one of its earliest and staunchest friends, with an interest ever fresh, and, after he had gone from us, alive in him to the end. Here, early and late, he studied its good and sought to promote it with all his power. He gave very liberally of his means, and roused others to liberality. The fruit of his sagacity and thought is most signally apparent in the plan for the support of this institution, which he elaborated through midnight hours, and consummated by untiring efforts by day. To adhere to all the accompanying provisions of it, unwritten, I am persuaded, would be the highest wisdom of its true friends. As long as this ministry shall endure, may the name of John Clark be held in respectful remembrance, and his fragrant deeds incite to generous efforts for the upraising of man.

The year lies before you, its work done. What the year has shown of the exceeding value of such an institution, in times that try the poor, allow me to say, should endear it to all, revive toward it the warmth of all hearts, and there cause the roots of this tree of good to extend themselves, and draw more largely the life of the soul to its support and growth. The greatest merit of all our past movements, and emphatically of the last year,—of the institution itself, is the *prevention* of poverty and crime,—immediately and in the future. The year has been a prosperous one in all our departments of labor. That we should have been carried through it, amid so much

depression of business, such an accumulation of poverty, and such scarcity of money, no debt as to the Poor's Purse, but now more than one hundred dollars in it, and no debt for the support of the ministry, calls for gratitude to God, and it must be deemed highly creditable to this society and the community. It is an hour of bright sunshine. But we know not the future. We know the past. When clouds come over us, and difficulties cross our path,—as sure as the sun is above us, good still is done by this institution, and more good will be done,—do not, I beseech you, any, in dark moments, coldly criticise our movements, do not yield to scepticism, do not feel it a burthen to support this ministry, do not throw discouragement on this enterprise, may I not say it, Christian, if there be any such, but with a whole heart and a free hand, encourage me and all who labor with me, that there may be uniform action and uniform growth. God give us all encouragement *when we most need it*, and bless us all with a lively hope, that this institution may stand as deep as it is wide rooted,—ever stand through all storm of trial and trouble,—stand a monument of the wisdom of man and to the glory of God.

Respectfully submitted.

Nov. 9, 1851.

HORATIO WOOD.